

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

President: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA
Vice Pres: Keith Cohoon K9PHI
Secretary: Bob Doles WB9AYB
Treasurer: Mac McCarty NV9K
Repeater Trustee: Eric Slader KB9BGS

KB9BGS/R
146.835

The Spark Gap

October 1991

October-November Test Sites

Oct 19	Franklin	NV9K	736-6320
Oct 26	Indianapolis	NQ9R	291-3569
Nov 2	New Castle	W9JUJ	288-0481
Nov 17	Rushville	N6RS	763-6090

Callsigns issued as of October 1st:

KB9HGI	NOVICE
N9MSH	GEN/TECH
KF9FW	ADVANCED
AA9BW	EXTRA



New Members

The newest member of our club is Charles Sears, N9MEW. "Charlie" and his wife Elfriede live in New Whiteland. Charles is a Broadcast Engineer for WTTV and WTTK and works at the WTTV transmitter in Trafalgar. He is active on packet, 2 meter and 440 and is also a computer BBS Sysop for Crossroads Broadcasters. We want to welcome Charlie to our club and hope he will participate in some of our club activities.



GOBLIN
PATROL



At our upcoming meeting Sheriff Doran Miller will talk to the club about this year's annual "Goblin Patrol." As vandalism seems to be increasing in the county it becomes more important to lessen the kind of damage that sometimes occurs at this time of the year. Sheriff Miller wants to coordinate the club activities with his department and has some special suggestions to improve the county coverage this year. We need lots of help on this community service.



NEW TECH

Chips and Technologies Inc., has announced they have a chip that promises to make computers as small and as disposable as calculators yet powerful enough to run accounting programs like Lotus 1-2-3.

The firm is introducing a family of chips that can run the same software as does Intel's 386 chip but will process information 10 percent faster. One of these chips called the PC/CHIP is a \$35 device that's the size of a credit card but with the full power of a PC.

Besides calculator-size PCs, the advance soon could mean PCs that connect to almost any size keyboard or display screen that can accept messages from other PCs, even if they are turned off!

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING SATURDAY

Minutes of previous meeting.
Treasurer's report.
Repeater Trustee's report.
Old business.
New business.
Program: Sheriff Doran Miller.
Adjournment.
V.E. Testing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NT9J: The field day tape for 1991 will be available at the meeting on Saturday.

KA9OOH: The tape from the WKLR radio program will be available also.

WB9OZZ: Ross Marlin suffered a bad grease burn from the Lions Club fish fry last weekend.

NV9K: The new ARRL Ham Video tape "Ham Radio in Space" will be transmitted Oct 20 on Weststar 5 channel 4 at 2 PM EDT.

A HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE

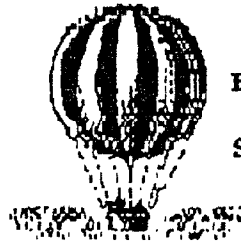
On my return trip from Washington, D.C. this past September on Amtrak train P051, there was a short story that developed that merits sharing with our club. Train 51 travels on the historic C&O Railway (now part of CSX Transportation) from Washington to Cincinnati. In northern Kentucky near Ashland, there is a branch line that travels south toward Elkhorn City, KY called the Big Sandy Branch. Our train was stopped to let a freight train "crossover" from Cincinnati and proceed down the branch. That train, CSX R690, derailed while going thru the switches. One of the cars that flipped over, contained hazardous chemicals. The time of the derailment was shortly after midnight, and my train was due to arrive at Indianapolis at 6:45 am. Listening to the railroad frequency, I found that our train would back to Kenova, WV and interchange to the N&W Railway. We would detour to Cincinnati, then head home. I had made plans to have a ride ready for me at 6:45 in the morning, and that schedule would not be at all possible. I needed to get a message to Indianapolis to give circumstances of the delay to my ride. Simple! I studied my Amateur repeater directory for stations close by, and started calling on the Amateur bands for assistance. On my third try, I had success with a contact. Jim, KA8ZZI, heard my call just as he was going to bed.

He was able to rig a commercial phone call so that I could make my contact, inform, and adjust the schedule. Pretty incredible given that I am on a train, out of state. However, friendly assistance was nearby. I think this is a good example of why I am involved in Amateur Radio. Larry N9MKR



From the
President:

I'm sorry to hear of Ross Marlin's burn while working at the Lions Club Fish Fry last weekend. Hope you're feeling better by now, Ross! The 6 meter is up and working on the tower. All are welcome to use it. Also the 440 should be ready to use by next weekend. I hope everyone can make it to breakfast and the meeting on Saturday. Hope to see you there! 73 Joe. KA9ZPA



HIGH SCHOOL BALLOON LAUNCH

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 1991

Last Saturday the students of Franklin High School sent up two balloons as a project of the High School Aerospace Technology class. The class did a similar project last spring but this time arrangements were made with 17 schools throughout the U.S. to monitor the launching and course of the balloon. Ham operators from as far east as New York and as far west as Iowa were in communication with the local project using 2 meter, 440, and 40 meter radios.

The launching got off to a shaky start by becoming entangled in the football field power lines. While waiting for Public Service to turn off the power the antenna wire of one of the packages shorted out on the power lines knocking out the communication system on the upper package. For a while it looked as though the launch would be scrubbed, but after retrieving what was left it was re-launched with only the lower package containing the beacons. The balloon reached altitudes of over 90,000 feet and came down close to Markland Dam on the Indiana side of the Ohio river.

Several local hams were involved in the project and the event was covered by CNN, Channel 6, Channel 1, and Channel 8 TV. There were hams present from several other states who drove considerable distances to be a part of the event. By and large the launch was considered a success and provided an excellent learning situation for the many students who were involved. Even the parents of some of the students were present and caught up in enthusiasm for the project. Everyone involved in the planning of this project should be congratulated!

COME TO THE
MEETING THIS
SATURDAY!

